

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 An interactive television system displays a television program having an
3 associated channel. The system also displays an interactive television mode
4 indicator if the displayed television program supports an interactive television
5 mode. The interactive television mode is activated in response to a request from a
6 viewer of the television program to activate the interactive television mode. The
7 system updates a channel status list to indicate that the television program is being
8 viewed in the interactive television mode. The system is also able to handle
9 requests for activating an online television mode. When changing channels, the
10 channel status list is used to restore a previously activated interactive television
11 mode or online television mode for a particular television channel. Two different
12 indicators may be displayed to indicate whether the television program supports an
13 interactive television mode and/or an online television mode.